

CLAIMS

1. An installation in which an operation of
5 crosslinking a coating, such as an ink or varnish
coating, is carried out by ultraviolet radiation or by
an electron beam, in the presence of a gas mixture with
a controlled residual oxygen content, the installation
comprising a chamber having one or more UV lamps or a
10 source of accelerated electrons, necessary for carrying
out the crosslinking operation, which is characterized
in that it includes an entry device adjacent the
chamber and comprising at least the following three
components, seen in succession by the running product
15 to be treated: a labyrinth system, means for injecting
an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a channel.

2. The installation as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that it includes an exit device
20 adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the
following three components, seen in succession by the
running product to be treated: a channel ("output
channel"), means for injecting an inert gas forming a
gas knife, and a means for creating a pressure drop,
25 such as a smooth profile, the distance between the
smooth profile and the surface of the coating being
less than the height of said channel.

3. The installation as claimed in claim 1,
30 characterized in that it includes an exit device
adjacent the chamber and consisting of at least the
following three components, seen in succession by the
running product to be treated: a channel, means for
injecting an inert gas forming a gas knife, and a
35 labyrinth system.

4. The installation as claimed in one of the
preceding claims, characterized in that said entry

device includes at least the following five components, seen in succession by the running product to be treated: a channel, a 1st gas injection slot, a labyrinth, a 2nd gas injection slot, followed by a
5 second channel.

5. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said means for injecting inert gas forming a gas knife comprise a
10 plane-walled gas injection slot emerging inside the entry or exit device in question.

6. The installation as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the
15 length/height ratio of at least one of said channels is at least 3, preferably at least 6.